

WE ARE INDEBTED FOR OUR



BELOVED PRISONERS

Verily, the fight between the truth and falsehood is a decided matter that will continue until the Day of Judgement. It is a fight that distinguishes the sincerely truthful from the lying munāfiq. This is a struggle that often favors those upon the truth. Allah chooses from among them Shuhadah, while the remaining are honored in this world with victories. But infrequently, the Muslims are tested with loss and hardship. The Kuffār gain dominance, and many from amongst the Muslims fall into the hands of our enemies.

We are living at a time that the number of Muslims under the captivity of Kuffār has exceeded. It may be safe to say that every single country on the face of the earth has Muslims incarcerated in their prisons for their ‘Aqidah. This shows the gravity of the situation, and how much the free are indebted to them.

If we thoroughly flip through the pages of history how many times would we stumble upon stories of how the Muslim leaders of the past went out with their armies to free the Muslim prisoners? And how much bloodshed has been spilled, and how much money has been spent on ransom? For they were leaders who feared the standing before the Lord of all creations. And it is part of great ‘ibādah that one aids the prisoners as much as he could.

With the aid of Allah, it is only those who are free that can assist in the affairs of the prisoners. While the free lodge on a fast lane, time has stopped for those behind bars. Their abilities are narrowed to what their captors provide. Their lives are locked away and forgotten. They are deprived of their families, proper clothing, and warm beds. And how much they wish to be free once again. Many are tortured mentally and physically. Yet their hopes upon the Muslim Ummah is more painful than the suffering and torture of waiting in the darkness of the prisons. The pain of living as a prisoner under a malicious Kāfir is painful enough. But the pain of abandonment by fellow Muslims is more severe on them. And had it not been for their belief in Allah, they would have shattered to pieces.

O’ Ummah of Muhammad (PBUH)! The whole Ummah is obliged to free the prisoners in every way possible, as the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, **“Set free the captives” [Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī].**

The fact that a single lion of this Ummah is a prisoner is devastation in itself. What would be the case when the Kuffār have with them the wives, daughters, and children of the honorable martyrs of this Ummah? What would be the case when they have our beloved scholars with them? Disgrace is not being shackled in dark dungeons. Rather disgrace is that the breasts do not stir from the grief of losing our men and women to the Kuffār.

For this reason, leaders of the Islamic State have given the utmost importance to set free the brothers and sisters behind bars. One example of this is Shaykh Abu Mus'ab az-Zarqāwī (may Allah accept him) responding to the appeals from inside the Abu Ghuraib prison. Furthermore, many walls of prisons have been broken by the Islamic State, both inside Iraq and Sham, and in other countries. The number of prisons whose walls have been demolished by the Islamic State amounts to 32 as an-Naba issues 269 and 270's infographics indicate. Both infographics were titled **"We Have Not Forgotten You"**, reminding all the prisoners that Islamic State is doing all that is in their power and might, which Allah, the Mighty gave them.

Shaykh Abu Ali al-Anbārī (may Allah accept him) in his lectures on "why we fight", where he included the tafsir of "حتى لا تكون فتنة ويكون الدين لله" (so that there will be no Fitnah...) said, that imprisonment itself is fitnah, and we fight to free our brothers and sisters as the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) commanded, "فكوا العاني" (Set free the captives).

As mentioned in "An-Naba" issue 246 Editorial, whenever the Mujāhidīn conquer a city or a town they hasten to raid prisons and security headquarters to get the prisoners out of them. Moreover, they destroy the prisons so the Kuffār and Murtaddīn cannot ever reuse it to imprison and harm Muslims even if the Mujāhidīn have to withdraw from there, as it was done in Mosul, Tadmur, and other places. After mentioning conquering town as a means of releasing Muslim prisoners, the Editorial continues: **"Another means of releasing Muslims or relieving them is the Islamic State Mujāhidīn killing and terrorizing the prison guards and investigators, to prevent them from contributing to the harsh rulings on Muslims, and to force them to help release them or relieve them in their prison."**

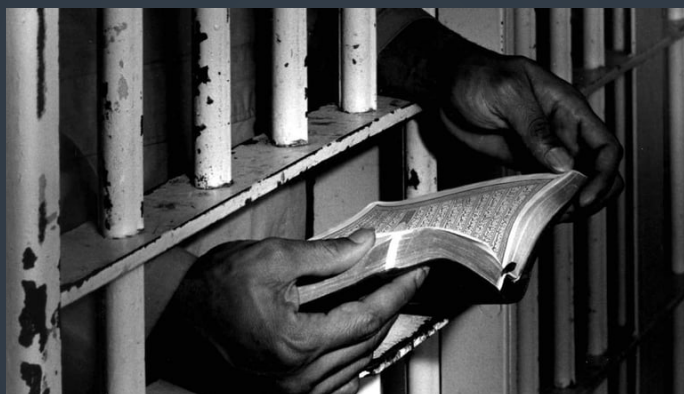
Just as money is important for Jihad, it is also important for the needs of prisoners. Ibn Taymiyyah (may Allah have mercy on him) said, **"Freeing prisoners is one of the greatest wājibāt and spending ransom money and other ways towards that is one of the greatest ways to come closer to Allah"**. [Al-Fatāwā 28/635] So, it is a duty upon us to help them financially in any way we can.

If you are incapable of this, use the media to keep the condition of the prisoners announced to the world. It is a tool that can be utilized to tackle the lies that are spread about the prisoners through the media of Kuffār.

Looking after the families of the prisoners is also a part of supporting them. This is a way to shield the prisoners from the waswās of Shaitān that may come in the form such as, **"You are imprisoned, there will be no one to look after your family"**. Any effort you exert will certainly lift the pain from their hearts, and help them renew their hopes. Endure the complaints you may get from certain prisoners, as the level of patience vary from each individual. Do not be agitated or bored by their complaints, rather be perseverant in advising them with patience.

You may also contact organizations that work against torture to intervene and lighten the suffering of the prisoners. You can put pressure on the governments by exposing their mishandling of the prisoners, thereby forcing them to compensate for the harm they have done to the Muslim captives. You may write letters, or keep regular contact with them with other possible means. This will assure them from feeling deserted.

The Kuffār may boast of their arrests of certain individuals. They may exaggerate and show off their success



using the media. They may even point out the vast number of evidences they have against certain prisoners. All this is done to demoralize the Muslims from carrying out their Jihād and D'awah, and to cease all hope that these prisoners can ever be helped or set free. Do

not get entangled by these doubts, for it is only Allah who prolongs and shortens the trials.

We remind our beloved prisoners with the words of the Spokesperson of Islamic State, Abu Hamza al-Qurashi (may Allah preserve him); **"And our message and recommendation for all jailed brothers and sisters is to remind them with patience and steadiness on this religion, and to know, may Allah have mercy upon you, that we did not and will not forget about you. We work with all our efforts to free you, by Allah's permission, even if it is going to cost us lives and huge costs. Your brothers in all Wilayat are ready – by Allah's permission – to die on the walls of your prisons for the sake of liberating you. You do not know when Allah will make you hear us scream 'Allahu Akbar' while breaking into prisons of the Tawāghīt."**

In conclusion, we say just as in the hadith **"And know that victory comes with patience, relief with affliction, and hardship with ease."** and **"[It is] the promise of Allah. Allah does not fail in His promise, but most of the people do not know."** [Surah ar-Rum: 6].